

**Video Clip:** “*Halloween Obsession v/s God Obsession*” (Beamer Films)

**\*\*\*Unmasking Halloween:  
Ephesians 5:11**

**Intro...**Halloween It s a time of year when the air gets crisper the day gets shorter and for many young Americans the excitement grows in anticipation of the darkest spookiest holiday of the year Retailers rejoice too as they warm up their cash registers to receive an average of 41 77 per household in decorations costumes candy and greeting cards Halloween will bring in approximately 3.3 billion dollars this year.

**The question is... How should Christians respond to Halloween Is it irresponsible for parents to let their children trick-or-treat What about Christians who refuse any kind of celebration during the season -- are they overreacting?**

It all seems like such harmless fun—but is it? I have had my own private war with Halloween for a number of years now. Frankly, I don’t think I’m really winning, “But why?” you may be thinking. “Do you want to deprive those little kids of all that fun and excitement? **What about the Children?????** It’s all just innocent, harmless fun!”

**Fun?...** Perhaps. **Innocent?** Hardly! I enjoy fun as much as the next guy, as anyone who really knows me will quickly affirm.



\*\*\* (Ex) my Halloween fond memory

But I also know that not all fun is “innocent fun.” A lot of people’s fun is at someone else’s expense.

Look at what we do to our pets. all in the name of “FUN”!  
Here are six reasons why our pets Hate Halloween...

## \*\*\*Huh...Six Reasons Why Our Pets Hate Halloween!



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\*\*\***Hmm...**Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.

Sir Francis Bacon, Essays, Of Death

Truly, the world has a fear of death and darkness, but all the while they participate in it. The lost person lives as if there is no eternity to deal with, yet, are in often cases, are obsessed with death and dying-fearing it. Or is it what comes after death that they fear. Strange irony isn't it? And how do we as believers, relate to and help, a world obsessed with darkness death (and all the glorification of its images such as we often see at Halloween) when these things are something we are not to have anything to do with?

\*\*\*Ephesians 5:8-11

<sup>8</sup>for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

<sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

<sup>10</sup>trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Is it a slippery slope that we walk on in order to infuse the Light of Christ into the darkness?

### \*\*\*History and Origins...

Because of the historical roots of Halloween, which I won't get into completely, because I'm sure you've heard all of them. I cannot see it as innocent, innocuous fun. It is a basic principle of life that the origin of something determines its nature.

\*\*\*The Bible says, **“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father ...” (James 1:17).**

\*\*\*It also says that Satan masquerades as an **“angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).**

He is the master of deception! That means that he makes evil look good . . . perversion look pure ... and a lie look like the truth.

Just as Satan has successfully veiled the true focus of Christmas by Santa Claus, reindeer, Christmas trees and presents, and the resurrection of Christ with Easter bunnies and Easter eggs,

Ex) Chocolate edible crosses, what could be more spiritual than that?

Halloween, unlike the other holidays, didn't start out as a Christian Holiday, it was quite the opposite. It was a Celtic and Pagan Holiday celebrating and summoning the spirits of the dead from it's beginning. It origins predated the birth of Christ. It was the early church that tried to turn the Pagan holiday into something more spiritual by creating “All Saints Day” to honor those early church forefathers who had been martyred. A noble cause, but then the secular world then turned “All Saints Eve” into the Hallowed Eve which has now become “Halloween.”

Interesting, that the holiday birthed out of darkness, when Christians tried to infuse light, it only succeeded in furthering the cause of darkness. Go figure.

Satan is the master of deceit and disguise. And the worst deception of all is to convince educated people that he really does not exist.

Don't be afraid of that witch or demon, Billy, they really don't exist.

\*\*\*When God gave the Promised Land to the early Israelites, He clearly warned them: **(Deut. 18:9-12).**

**“When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There**

**shall not be found among you anyone ... who used divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord”**

### **Ephesus:**

When spiritual revival came to the ancient pagan city of Ephesus through the ministry of Paul, all books and paraphernalia related to the occult were destroyed:

**\*\*\* Acts 19:19-20 “And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing”**

Ancient cities like Ephesus had enterprising merchants. They capitalized on the economic opportunities of the occult and witchcraft just as our contemporary businessmen have exploited Halloween into a multi-million dollar annual bonanza!

History has proven that once something becomes culturally acceptable and economically profitable, it will remain and flourish—regardless of its origin—unless true spiritual revival comes to root it out.

So What do we do about it. How do we respond to Halloween as Christians when we have been instructed in the word of God by our passage of scripture ...

**\*\*\*Ephesians 5:11 “... *do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness***

### **\*\*\* Practical Ways to Respond to Halloween:**

**1. Do not be superstitious!** Satan is no more dangerous to us on Halloween than any other day of the week. Pagans are superstitious about certain days and times of year, so do not fall into that kind of mysticism.

**\*\*\*2. Do some bible study** with your kids or grandkids about witchcraft, the occult

**(Media note: bring up suggested scriptures right away)**

**\*\*\*(suggested study scriptures)**

**Gen. 40:8; Lev. 19:26-28; 20:6; Deut. 4:19; 7:25-26; 17:2-5; 18:9-14; 1 Sam. 15:23; 2 Kings 17:16-18; Isa. 47:13-15; Micah 3:6-7; Zeph. 1:5; John 3:19; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; Eph. 5:5-11; 2 Pet. 2:1-3.**

Don't however do the bible study on Halloween! That's just a bummer to kids.

3. **\*\*\* Be Creative!** Christians should use Halloween and all it brings to the imagination as an opportunity to engage the unbelieving world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has given everyone a conscience that responds to His truth. **If you are going to decorate your home, there's lots of options out there that make can make your house inviting and fun to your neighbors without having to compromise and display demonic images.** If you are going to do a pumpkin, make it a happy one...etc.

**\*\*\* 4. Give out Candy!**

Try to use the “trick or treating” time as an opportunity for witnessing. Take a humorous or cogent tract—not a negative, condemning one and tape it to the candy you give out. You can usually find them at your local Christian bookstore. Most will probably not be read, but we are called to faithfully “sow the seeds.” If you sow enough good seeds, some will fall on “good soil” (Matt. 13:23).

**\*\*\*5. Find an alternative!** Like our Fall Fair coming up next weekend

**Conclusion:**

Ultimately Christian participation in Halloween is a matter of conscience before God Whatever level of Halloween participation you choose you must honor God by keeping yourself separate from the world and by showing mercy to those who are perishing. Halloween provides the Christian with the opportunity to accomplish both of those things in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It s a message that is holy set apart from the world; it s a message that is the very mercy of a forgiving God. What better time of the year is there to share such a message than Halloween?

**\*\*\* (Cue Halloween Evangelism Video here)**

**\*\*\*(media note: Fall Fair Flyer ppt on screen)**

We are called to forsake the ways of darkness and to walk in the light. Christianity is not simply an intellectual agreement with a theological creed --- it is a commitment to the living God which is evidenced by a new way of life. But if we continue to totally shut ourselves off from the world, we will never reach it.

Outreach plug: Help us reach the community for Christ this Saturday on Halloween. 400 flyers for our Fall Fair went on the doorknobs of many households yesterday morning by a dedicated team of volunteers. Please help us make this outreach a success for the kingdom of Christ. Sign up to volunteer in one of the areas before

you leave today. **You win more flies with honey than vinegar!**